



APHIS

Plant Protection and Quarantine

Pest Detection and Management Programs

Weekly Notice, June 2, 2003

This "Weekly Notice" is prepared by the Pest Detection and Management Programs (PDMP) to communicate recent important events. These notices and other more detailed program information can be found at:

<http://www.aphis.usda.gov/ppq/ep/>

Cotton Pest Programs

Boll Weevil Eradication – Strong storms and continuing rains in the mid-south program areas have delayed planting in some areas, caused significant replanting, and made it difficult to install and maintain a full array of pheromone traps. Program personnel are doing a great job working through difficult conditions. Initial treatments on the earliest fields, based on trap captures, began during the week of May 19, 2003.

In the Northeast Delta zone of Arkansas, the State Plant Board held a public hearing on May 22, 2003, regarding the proposed plan to implement a mandatory eradication program in the area. Fall migration of weevils from this non-program area severely impacted adjoining program areas last year. Following the hearing, the Board voted to proceed with the mandatory program, intending to begin field operations later this year.

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Emergency Programs

Asian longhorned beetle - Chemical treatments were completed in New Jersey on Friday, May 23, 2003, with 1,060 trees treated (78 trunk injection and 982 soil injection). Discussions are continuing with the contractors who submitted bids on the New York treatment solicitation. The goal of the program in New York is to have contracts in place by June 11, 2003, and treatments to begin the following week. Treatments in the Chicago, Illinois, area are scheduled to be completed the week of June 9, 2003.

Emergency Preparedness - PPQ is revising its Emergency Program Manual to incorporate the incident command modular system of organization. We are also conducting bi-weekly video-conferences between

headquarters and regional staff during development and integration of the Incident Command System (ICS). The PPQ headquarter's and regional staff implementation team is scheduled to receive ICS training June 24 – 25, 2003, in Riverdale, MD.

Emerald ash borer - PPQ and the Michigan Department of Agriculture (MDA) officials have selected sites for three offices in the Detroit area. The locations of the offices will be in Tecumseh (south), Brighton (central), and Inlay City (north). Interviews for the permanent USDA program manager are in progress this week. The interagency agreement with Forest Service and the cooperative agreement with MDA are drafted and being reviewed by cooperators.

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Domestic Programs

Environmental Monitoring - A second training session for environmental monitoring coordinators (EMCs) was completed on May 22, 2003, in Billings, MT. The EMCs trained in Billings and those trained last month in Salt Lake City, UT comprise a cadre of trained personnel capable of conducting environmental monitoring for grasshopper and Mormon cricket control programs. Environmental monitoring of Mormon cricket programs has already begun in UT, NV and CA. Contact: Ron Berger (301) 734-5105

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New Officer Training - The Professional Development Center (PDC) has asked PDMP for input in the development of materials for New Officer Training. ISPM volunteered to compile case study examples of domestic program decisions and dilemmas faced by field officers. PDC is also interested in accessing videos and powerpoint presentations developed by PPQ program managers that would be instructive as training tools. Weyman Fussell is the domestic program (PDMP- ISPM) point person for canvassing program managers for input and compiling the materials for PDC.



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Gypsy Moth - Following a weigh station blitz in Nebraska which intercepted a certified shipment of nursery stock in transit from Wisconsin to Colorado with gypsy moth egg masses, a conference call was convened to review the certification/notification process and harvest lessons learned from the experience. Representatives participated from PPQ Western Region, Eastern Region, Riverdale, and SITC.

Pine Shoot Beetle - Collaboration among PPQ, CPHST, and Eastern Plant Board has resulted in consensus on a Pine Shoot Beetle bark management plan. The plan will be vetted with the National Plant Board. If endorsed, the plan will be proposed as a Compliance Agreement option which will provide producers of pine products additional flexibility not currently available under the PSB regulation.

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National Survey Program

The National CAPS Committee held a conference call this past week to discuss the National CAPS meeting, the National CAPS guide, the draft Volunteer plan, PRA's from CPHST for CAPS use, and the PDA project with University of Nebraska and their beta testing the system this summer. The National CAPS pest list was posted onto the Pest Detection site this week as well as the National Wood Borer/Bark Beetle survey plan. A new assistant staff officer position within the Pest Detection unit was announced on June 2, 2003. The url for that announcement is:

<http://jsearch.usajobs.opm.gov/ftva.asp?OPMControl=IN9792>

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